

Northumberland Uplands



Northumberland Uplands LEADER 2008-2013

Rural Development Projects



Comment from the Chair

Sometimes when you have reached the end of a journey you look forward to some rest and relaxation. LEADER is just not like that. Living and working in the Northumberland Uplands is an immense privilege and as members of NULAG we have even more to celebrate as the Local Action Group is made up of wonderful characters, each in their own way passionate about the place in which we live. All are determined to ensure that our rural way of life remains fresh, vibrant and full of opportunities for future generations to enjoy. These passionate people radiate energy and give us all hope for a better future. I thank all our LAG members for the investment they have made in the future of a wonderful place.

The projects we work with and support are truly inspirational and journeying with people whose dreams start to become reality is such a source of joy, that I cannot imagine this journey of ours ever coming to an end. There will always be a new road to travel. I owe a deep debt of gratitude to the people and communities we have worked with and who contribute to the Northumberland Uplands being a place of inspiration and hope.

Michael Nixon

Chair, Northumberland Uplands Local Action Group



Introduction

Between 2008 and 2013 Northumberland Uplands Local Action Group (NULAG) has awarded more than £2million in grants to fund activity through the LEADER approach in some of the most remote rural areas in the North East of England.

LEADER is an EU-wide, bottom up approach that embraces local decision making. This approach ensures that development is appropriate for the Northumberland Uplands and can encourage enterprise and innovation.

NULAG has invested in a diverse range of projects, including micro-enterprises, land management initiatives, community buildings, skills and training activity, tourism projects, local arts, community shops, local events and pilot wood fuel activities. We have also forged a close working relationship with a Local Action Group based in Sweden, resulting in many joint activities, study visits and information sharing.

This booklet showcases every project supported by NULAG since it was formed, and demonstrates how effective relatively small amounts of funding can be in making a big difference to rural communities. Innovation and sustainability are two areas we have been particularly keen to encourage; and some of the projects we have supported have been unique to the area, and, in some cases, the UK.

Although NULAG's project budget has now been fully committed, our work is not done. We are now in the process of reviewing our activities and compiling a new Local Development Strategy for the Northumberland Uplands for the period 2014 – 2020.

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Automatic Wildfire Detection System

Land Management, Farming and Forestry

Applicant: Northumberland National Park
Authority


 5 Micro businesses supported



Photo by Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service

This project is highly innovative and unique across the UK in the management of wildfires. The project has purchased and installed optical and infra-red cameras that are capable of detecting when fires break out in remote areas of Northumberland National Park. The cameras transmit a signal to a computer containing special software that acts as an early warning system. This project has benefited from links with similar systems in place in several European countries.

Northumberland National Park delivers this project in parallel with the Cheviot Futures project that gives practical advice to land managers on adaptation and climate change.

Website:

www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk

Leader Grant £59,230

Shepherd's Hut And Alpacas

Land Management, Farming and Forestry

Applicant: Barnacre Alpacas

 1 Micro business supported



Barnacre Alpacas is a unique business thriving on an upland farm in deep rural Northumberland by mixing new business ideas with traditional farming approaches. At the core of the business is a prize winning herd of alpacas. This project has purchased a 'shepherd's hut' to be used as a permanent display area for the goods produced using the alpaca fibre. The hut is sited on the farm to showcase the products available for visitors to the farm.

Website: www.barnacre-alpacas.co.uk

Leader Grant: £9,000

Home Grown Protein Crops

The overall aim of this research project is to explore the economic, environmental and ethical performance of a group of upland stock farms in Coquetdale, through the trial growing and use of appropriate legume based forage crops over a two-year period.

The trial involved planting plots of a farm specific legume forage mix and comparing them with existing hay meadows. Forage growth, animal performance and financial performance are measured to enable feed supply and feed demand to be understood and appropriate feed budgets devised.

Leader Grant: £34,820

Land Management, Farming and Forestry

Applicant: The Upper Coquetdale Farmers Group



Northumberland Uplands Collaborative Wood-fuel Support

NULAG established the first ever Northumberland Firewood Fair. In excess of £6,000 of business was done, with 224 lots sold under the hammer and 778 people through the gates. A first for the North of England! It has since inspired similar events in Northumberland.

Northwoods also worked intensively with wood-fuel supply businesses to assist them to gain accreditation ensuring the quality of their product - the first 'set' of wood-fuel supply businesses to achieve accreditation through collaboration in the UK.

This project also produced a Buyers' Guide, attended local shows and used pop-up 'wood-fuel shops' to educate and inform wood-fuel buyers.

Website:

www.ruraldevelopment.org.uk/northwoods

Land Management, Farming and Forestry

Applicant: Northwoods

 29 Micro businesses supported



Leader Grant: £32,125

Cheviot Futures

Land Management, Farming and Forestry

Applicant: Tweed Forum/ Northumberland
National Park Authority

🏠 31 Micro businesses supported

😊 500 Young people

👤 1 Job

🎓 3 Training days

🌱 1 Community/business network



The first cross-border Leader project between England and Scotland, Cheviot Futures, works in the Northumberland Uplands and the Scottish Borders to raise awareness of the predicted threats and opportunities from climate change in the Cheviot Hills and Tweed and Till river catchments.

The project helps farmers and land managers take steps to adapt to a changing climate through a series of demonstration projects that look at new farming techniques and the sharing of best practice. The aim is to leave a legacy of projects and best practice guidance which have a lasting impact on the way farmers and land managers throughout the Cheviot Hills improve their overall resilience to climate change.

Website: www.cheviotfutures.co.uk

Leader Grant £140,357

Moss Peteral – Farm Diversification

Land Management, Farming and Forestry

Applicant: Moss Peteral Farming Partnership

🏠 1 Micro business supported

🔍 1 Micro enterprise start up



Moss Peteral Farm has diversified by getting involved in care farming. The farm business has installed a wood fired boiler and central heating system that has enabled suitable accommodation, meaningful work opportunities and respite care to be offered to vulnerable adults with social and care needs.

The farm can accommodate two people at a time, with the length of stay depending on the clients' requirements. The farm is now registered with Northumberland Care Trust who place clients with them through the Adult Placement Carers Scheme.

Leader Grant: £9,867

Micro Hydro On Upland Farms

A group of seven local farmers explored the potential to install micro-hydro systems on their farms and make use of this sustainable natural resource. The Northumberland Uplands holds opportunities to generate electricity from its water resources that can be used in farm businesses. The project supported the farmers in their pursuit of carbon-neutral land management.

Reducing carbon emissions on marginal upland farms is tricky as a lot of typical farming practice will use minimal inputs. Looking at how farms generate their power can be one way of doing this. Micro-hydro power has the potential to increase farm income, reduce costs and be used as a marketing tool for farm produce. Since the feasibility studies were completed one farm business has installed micro-hydro technology.

Land Management, Farming and Forestry

Applicant: Upper Coquetdale Farmers Group
7 Micro businesses supported



Leader Grant: £11,625

NULogs

This pilot project looked to unlock the economic potential of un-managed woodland and support small operators in the wood fuel sector across the Northumberland Uplands Leader area.

A number of complementary activities have taken place, including direct technical training, one-to-one mentoring and a study tour to Sweden to see wood fuel processing techniques in action. The project was independently evaluated in order to share lessons across the country.

Website: www.northwoods.org.uk/nulogs

Land Management, Farming and Forestry

Applicant: Northwoods
16 Micro businesses supported
3 Micro enterprise start ups
5.5 Jobs
70 Training days



Leader Grant: £63,943

Traditional Boundaries, Traditional Skills

Land Management, Farming and Forestry

Applicant: Northumberland National Park
Authority

🏠 4 Micro businesses supported

📞 5 Micro enterprise start ups

👥 5 Jobs

🎓 2034 Training days

🌱 3 Community/business networks

😊 23 Young people

This rural skills apprenticeship scheme trained people in the management and repair of traditional boundaries and associated features such as gates, stiles and fences. Northumberland National Park ran a twelve-month course so that trainees had the best possible chance of entering full time employment in the rural economy.

This practical initiative addressed the issue of a lack of boundary management experts in rural areas. The project brought training and subsequent employment within reach of people who wanted to become dry-stone wall contractors.

Website:

www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/lookingafter/projects/traditionalboundaries



Leader Grant £45,000

Young Enterprising Leader Project (YELP)

Young People

Applicant: Northumberland National Park
Authority

🏠 12 Micro businesses supported

🌱 3 Community/business networks

😊 90 Young people

This project supported the work of NULAG's Youth Animation Project. The project provided young people with an opportunity to gain enterprise skills through a series of training and business open days. It also offered the chance to take part in training aimed at increasing the involvement of young people in work environments. A Changemaker was also recruited in this project to establish a network of young people. The network has already voiced their opinions on life in rural Northumberland to their local MPs.

Website: www.facebook.com/NULAGyoung



Leader Grant: £26,928

Young Entrepreneurs For Rural Northumberland (YERN)

TrilogE delivered three-day residential events that focused on engaging young people in enterprising behaviours and encouraged them to consider entrepreneurial opportunities, as well as giving them an understanding of alternative career options to further education.

Leader Grant: £30,388

Young People

Applicant: TrilogE

🏭 2 Micro businesses supported

😊 20 Young people



Environmental Scouts

Land-based businesses in Northumberland worked with Whittingham 1st Scouts, exciting them through active involvement in environmental projects and giving them entry-level skills so that they may choose to follow careers or take up volunteer roles in the sector.

The funding also enabled the group to go to Lesotho in southern Africa to expand their learning to a global scale. The Scouts learned about soil erosion problems, planted trees and built walls at local schools and also contributed smokeless, efficient stoves to the local community.

Leader Grant: £10,229

Young People

Applicant: Whittingham 1st Scouts

🌱 1 Community/business network

😊 50 Young people




Transnational Youth Engagement Project

Young People

Applicant: Northumberland National Park Authority

 4 Community/business networks

 30 Young people



NULAG's transnational project with Leader Linné offered the opportunity for young people in the Northumberland Uplands to exchange experiences, skills and knowledge with young people in Småland in southern Sweden.

A group of young people travelled to each area for a short period to study, complete work placements, learn about each other's culture and stay with local families. This allowed them to experience approaches to work in another county and receive direct support for their own career aspirations.

Leader Grant £38,062

Kielder Observatory – Enhanced Instrumentation Programme

Young People

Applicant: Kielder Observatory Astronomical Society

 1 Job



Kielder Observatory Astronomical Society has installed a satellite internet connection at the Observatory. This project purchased a 16-inch research grade telescope and mount. These developments allow the existing 14-inch telescope to be taken out on road-shows to local schools and groups.

The accessibility of the design and installation of the new telescope means people with disabilities are better able to access facilities at the Observatory and enjoy the night sky.

Website: www.kielderobservatory.org

Leader Grant: £16,000

Selling The Soil

Luk Luk Productions produced and edited a 45-minute film to emphasise the importance of local farmers markets and their wider impact on communities. Farmers markets are renowned for their quality local produce but they also bring local people together who are scattered far and wide over the rural landscape. The film follows farmers and customers.

As part of this project four local schools have taken part in workshops about farmers markets and their produce; Glendale Middle School, Wooler First School, Dr Tomlinson Middle School and Rothbury First School.

Leader Grant: £6,000

Young People

Applicant: Luk Luk Productions



1 Micro business supported



Northumberland Young Firefighters

This project supported the Fire Service's Northumberland Young Firefighters Association to establish three new branches in rural Northumberland based around fire stations in Rothbury, Wooler and Haltwhistle. Each cadet branch is supported by two retained Firefighters who live and work locally and two trained young volunteers and involve young people in decision making and planning. Each branch recruits young people aged 13-18. They participate in a structured, accredited training programme, which leads to a Level 2 BTEC qualification in Fire and Rescue Services in the Community. Firefighting skills are taught as well as training around health and safety, nutrition, first aid, communications, problem solving and understanding anti-social behaviour. A further station in Amble has been funded by the Coast and Lowlands Local Action Group.

Young People

Applicant: Fire Services Youth Training Association



245 Training days



3 Community/business networks



12 Young people




Leader Grant: £26,770


www.nuleader.eu • 11

Greenhead Youth Club

Young People

Applicant : Greenhead Village Hall

 1 Micro business supported

 50 Young people



Young people in this deep rural community benefited from the recruitment of two youth workers at the Youth Club. The Youth Club provides social skills and education for young people through talks from visiting groups such as the fire brigade. Subs and community fundraising contribute to ongoing running costs.

Website: www.greenheadvillagehall.org.uk


Leader Grant £2,510

Young Farmers Officer Training

Young People

Applicant: Northumberland Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs

 75 Training days

 30 Young people



Young Farmers Clubs across the Northumberland Uplands took part in two days of leadership and team working training provided by the Brathay Trust to gain the skills needed in order to run their own committees. They also attended two short training courses on officer skills, and a short training session specific to their own role as a club or county officer (e.g. treasurer, chair, secretary).

The Young Farmers reported back to NULAG that the training had increased their confidence and self esteem to carry out their roles within Young Farmers Clubs and also within their paid employment and have added the skills they have gained to their CVs.

Website: www.northumberlandyfc.co.uk

Leader Grant: £4,310

Wooler Youth Drop-In





Wooler Youth Drop-In has been supported by NULAG over the duration of this programme. Since 1999 young people in Wooler, over the age of 13, have been using the drop in centre at 53 High Street. Regular activity includes art and music nights, games, a training programme with the Fire Service and work with local paramedics. Internet links and regular help from other youth initiatives give access to all kinds of information and advice; a service rarely available to young people in rural communities.

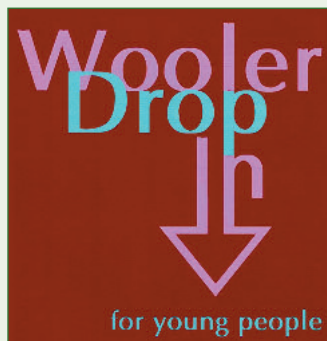
Website: www.wooler.org.uk

Leader Grant: £20,000

Young People

Applicant: Wooler Youth Drop In

-  1 Job
-  12 Training days
-  1 Community/business network
-  147 Young people



Children's Countryside Day

The Glendale Agricultural Society's Children's Countryside Day is one of the leading rural educational events in the UK. NULAG has supported this innovative and forward thinking project over four years.



The annual event held at Wooler is open to all first schools in Northumberland and some from Tyneside. The Children's Countryside Day improves children's knowledge of rural life. It is run with the active involvement of hundreds of local volunteers.

Each year there are over 70 educational exhibits. They include farm livestock pens, sheep shearing and renewable energy technologies. The exhibitors talk to the children in an informal, fun and relaxed setting away from the classroom.

Website: www.glendaleshow.com/countrysideaday.php

Young People

Applicant: Glendale Agricultural Society

-  1 Micro business supported
-  1 Job



Leader Grant: £40,000

Haltwhistle Music And Arts Festival

Young People

Applicant: Haltwhistle Partnership Ltd

😊 48 Young people



The main focus of this project was to work with volunteers who were under 25 year to create and organise a Music and Arts Festival in Haltwhistle, showcasing local talents. The project encouraged creative thinking skills and raised the aspirations for young people in and around the town.

Leader Grant £32,775

Hesleyside Shepherd's Huts

Tourism, Culture, Environment

Applicant – Hesleyside Estate

🏠 | Micro business supported



Two traditional Shepherd's Huts are situated on the Hesleyside Estate in rural Northumberland. Visitors can stay in eco-friendly accommodation within the grounds of Hesleyside. Each hut accommodates two adults and represents a step change in the Estate's desire to diversify and find ways to share its beauty and history. The introduction of the huts has generated new income streams to create new employment and sustain the Estate. The Shepherd's Huts are constructed from sustainable and reclaimed materials by a local craftsman and sit on cast iron hand forged wheels.

Website: www.hesleysidehuts.co.uk

Leader Grant: £30,000

Kielder Observatory - Development Project

Kielder Observatory Astronomical Society wanted to increase the ability of the general public to visit the Observatory. A much broader public access programme has been established by this project allowing many more astronomy sessions to be held. As a result the project is now self sufficient, generating its own funds through increased numbers of paid visits by the public which have also raised public awareness of the Observatory and the work of Kielder Observatory Astronomical Society. An edition of The Sky at Night was filmed here on 15th February 2013.

Website: www.kielderobservatory.org

Tourism, Culture, Environment

Applicant: Kielder Observatory Astronomical Society



| Micro business supported



Leader Grant: £50,000

Greystead Church Conversion

A Grade II listed building, St. Luke's Church was decommissioned many years ago and has lain empty since. This project converted the building into a four bedroom holiday let. The conversion retains as much of the original Georgian interior as possible, as well as restoring many original features both inside and out. All four bedrooms are located on the ground floor, with a mezzanine floor providing a unique open plan kitchen and dining area overlooking the lounge in the east end of the building.

This conversion gave opportunities for local apprentices to learn new building skills. Open days were also run showcasing the unique approach to converting listed buildings using traditional methods.

Tourism, Culture, Environment

Applicant: Greystead Coach House



| Micro business supported



| Micro enterprise start up




Leader Grant: £25,000

Calvert Trust Lodge

Tourism, Culture, Environment

Applicant: Calvert Trust

 I Micro business supported



The Calvert Trust is a leading provider of outdoor activity holidays with accessible facilities. This project constructed a high-specification, fully accessible lodge. This new lodge is a flagship in accessible accommodation and supports Calvert Trust's wider development plans. The new lodge sleeps up to six people, and allows families with all abilities to holiday together, something that is not easily available to them at the present time.

Website: www.calvert-trust.org.uk/kielder

Leader Grant £119,976

Visual Arts In Rural Communities (VARC) – Walk On

Tourism, Culture, Environment

Applicant: Visual Arts in Rural Communities

 I Micro business supported



Photo by Mark Pinder

The main focus of Walk On is artist-led curated walks where participants were invited to join the artists in a creative, active and inspirational way. It demonstrated how walking has been a practice adopted by artists for decades. An exhibition based on the walks was also developed by the project and material from this event contributed to a publication and a major national art conference.

Website: www.varc.org.uk

Leader Grant: £33,347

Wooler Youth Hostel

The development of the hostel had two main outcomes. Firstly, the project directly improved Wooler Youth Hostel, providing more and different types of accommodation through the provision of en-suite accommodation and sleeping pods. Secondly, the project brought in more income for the local development trust, Glendale Gateway Trust, which reinvests surplus profit in community projects.

The project has involved youth groups from the Wooler area in the development of the Youth Hostel. Young people were involved in the delivery and installation of new sleeping pods.

Website: www.wooler.org.uk/hostel

Leader Grant: £42,056

Tourism, Culture, Environment

Applicant: Glendale Gateway Trust

😊 6 Young people



Railway Carriage Exhibition And Tearoom

The Heritage Centre in Bellingham purchased two Mark I Railway Carriages. The carriages have been installed against the original station platform at the Heritage Centre. One has been converted into a tearoom providing simple high quality homemade cakes and light lunches. The second has been turned into an additional exhibition space exploring the impact railways have had on the social and industrial heritage of the area together with the impact of their demise on rural Northumberland.

The Centre employed an innovative approach to finding the right candidate to run the cafe; offering the facilities rent free for the first year to assist in encouraging a successful new business start up.

Website: www.bellingham-heritage.org.uk

Tourism, Culture, Environment

Applicant: Bellingham Heritage Centre

🏠 1 Micro business supported

🕒 1 Micro enterprise start up

👥 4 Jobs





Leader Grant: £39,486

Short Walks On St Cuthbert's Way

Tourism, Culture, Environment

Applicant: Scottish Borders Council

 5 Micro businesses supported

 1 Young person



A cross-border, cross-Leader area project delivered by St Cuthbert's Way Steering Group has established and promoted a series of short walks along the full length of St Cuthbert's Way.

The short walks provide new routes for local residents and community groups and enhance visitor numbers by offering an opportunity for day visitors and families to experience a 'taste of St Cuthbert's Way'. The walks are complemented by a guide book, map and branded products, which promote the area and local points of interest. Sales of these promotional items supplement necessary rights of way maintenance.

Website: www.stcuthbertsway.info

Leader Grant £10,500

Flodden Eco Museum

Tourism, Culture, Environment

Applicant: Glendale Gateway Trust

 1 Micro business supported

 41 Training days

 2 Community/business networks



England's first Eco Museum - a museum without walls – was developed by a group of organisations and individuals from the private, voluntary and public sectors. The idea behind Flodden Eco Museum is to allow communities, projects, locations and events to retain their individual ownership but to be linked through a single brand, in this case the Battle of Flodden and the 500-year commemoration in 2013.

This project provided various workshops, training days, and a single identity branding for all sorts of local businesses and organisations. This community network ensures a legacy within the area beyond the 500-year commemoration of Flodden in 2013.

Website: www.flodden1513.com

Leader Grant: £24,265

Kielder Astronomy Village Feasibility Study

Building on the huge success of the newly introduced events at the Observatory this project has investigated further growth through the development of the site. The study investigated the installation of a one metre aperture fully accessible telescope, and the building of a 60-seater planetarium, bunkhouse and campsite.

Website: www.kielderobservatory.org

Leader Grant: £7,000

Tourism, Culture, Environment

Applicant: Kielder Observatory



1 Micro business supported



Calvert Trust - Realising Potential

The Realising Potential project at the Calvert Trust has enabled two new items of specialist equipment to be installed, a High Ropes Course and Laser Clays. Both activities are available for use by people with all levels of ability therefore promoting the Trust's inclusion work, while also developing the tourism offer within the Kielder Water and Forest Park.

The Laser Clay Shooting facility provides an environmentally friendly leisure pursuit with no risk of injury or damage to humans, animals or the countryside. It fires an infra-red beam at reflective clays using specialist de-activated shotguns and is able to be used by up to five people at the same time.

Website: www.calvert-trust.org.uk/kielder

Tourism, Culture, Environment

Applicant: Calvert Trust



1 Micro business supported



1.5 Jobs






Leader Grant: £82,092

Bellingham Equestrian Events

Tourism, Culture, Environment

Applicant: North Tyne & Redesdale Agricultural Society

-  I Micro business supported
-  6 Training days
-  I Community/business network



The North Tyne and Redesdale Agricultural Society purchased a full set of versatile show jumps that can also be used as working hunter jumps. The wooden jumps have been intentionally sourced from sustainable British woodland. The society also purchased a trailer to transport and store the equipment securely.

The equipment is used at the annual Bellingham Show but also hired out to other local organisations in the area. The income saved from having their own equipment and the additional income generated from hiring out the equipment is reinvested into the Bellingham Show, enabling it to host popular traditional events such as Northumbrian Piping competitions and Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling.

Leader Grant £4,870

Eastbanks Eco Bothy

Tourism, Culture, Environment

Applicant: Eastbanks Bothy

-  I Micro enterprise start up



This project converted an old, redundant agricultural stone building into comfortable holiday accommodation generating additional income for Eastbanks farm business. The road access, car park and planning all took into account the natural aspect of the landscape.

Eastbanks Eco Bothy offers a unique holiday experience for visitors providing an utterly private, isolated setting, with access to miles of walking routes along Hadrian's Wall. The focus is on low-impact, eco-friendly tourism using renewable energy and existing completely 'off-grid'.

Website: www.eastbanks.co.uk

Leader Grant: £20,000

Hooked Up Hotspots

In preparation for the planned roll out of 1,700 electric vehicle charge points across the North East, Northumberland National Park trialled two units within the Park to test whether the technology was feasible within the rural areas of Northumberland. This was the first trial in the North East in a rural setting.

The technology allows people to arrive at their destination, swipe a fob to register their usage of the charge point, plug their car in and head out for their walk knowing that their vehicle will charge for the allotted time purchased. Not only can usage and power consumption be monitored but it is an entirely cash free system as all financial transactions are done online beforehand.

Website:

www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk

Leader Grant: £9,000

Tourism, Culture, Environment

Applicant: Northumberland National Park Authority



Kielder Camping And Caravan Site

The local community trust, Kielder Limited, renovated and refurbished the outdated facilities at Kielder Caravan and Campsite. The 30-year old shower and toilet block got a complete makeover and hard standing was provided for new caravan pitches. Safety repairs have also been carried out to the road and new play facilities have been installed. This community owned tourism facility recycles profits into the remote village of Kielder through the community trust. An example of this is the match funding that was provided to the unmanned Kielder Fuel Station that also received Leader support.

Website: www.kieldercampsite.co.uk

Leader Grant: £14,295

Tourism, Culture, Environment

Applicant: Kielder Limited

 | Micro business supported


 | Community/business network




Bellingham All Acoustic Festival

Tourism, Culture, Environment

Applicant: Landermason

 1 Micro business supported

 2 Jobs



Northumberland hosted its very own version of Glastonbury, staging Baafest, a weekend-long acoustic music festival, courtesy of two local musicians.

The Bellingham song-writing duo Landermason, organised this new music festival in the small village of Bellingham in 2010.

The two-day event welcomed folk groups like Megson, Whapweasel and the Caffreys. On the Saturday, Bellingham's Trade and Tourism Association held a traditional farmers' market in the village and the town hall opened its doors as exhibition space for local artists and for young people to take part in the festival. Baafest has become a regular music festival.

As well as establishing Baafest Landermason also purchased new equipment for their home-based recording studio in order to upgrade it into a commercial space.

Website: www.baafest.co.uk

Leader Grant £20,000


Heatherslaw Light Railway

Tourism, Culture, Environment

Applicant: Heatherslaw Light Railway Ltd

 1 Micro business supported

 1.5 Jobs

 1 Young person



Heatherslaw Light Railway at Ford and Etal completed the new steam locomotive that Neville Smith had already begun building and constructing four years earlier. The business also built two new 16-passenger capacity carriages. This project has secured six existing jobs and additionally created one full and one part time job.

The increased capacity of the extra steam locomotive and rolling stock has reduced waiting times, guaranteeing visitors a trip on a steam-hauled train, rather than the alternative diesel engine at peak periods. The new train and carriages mean the business has become more sustainable allowing it to grow as a key attraction in the north of the Northumberland Uplands.

Website: www.heatherslawlightrailway.co.uk

Leader Grant: £42,530

Haydon Bridge Tourism Gateway Initiative


The flagship project for Haydon Bridge and Haydon Parish Development Trust promoted the parish as a tourism gateway, renovated the existing library and took it into local ownership in order to provide a wide variety of services. The new community building 'The Bridge' provides space for the sale of local items and has become a creative hub. The community role of the library has been developed by encouraging its volunteers to gain confidence and learn computer and customer service skills as a means into or back to employment.


This project was at the heart of Haydon Parish Plan and reflects local peoples' priorities for the sustainable development of their own community. The project also provided training for local businesses on 'visitor welcome' and developed a series of information leaflets and panels for new walks.


Website: www.visit-haydon-bridge.co.uk

Tourism, Culture, Environment

Applicant: Haydon Bridge and Haydon Parish Development Trust

 27 Micro businesses supported

 41 Training days

 4 Community/business networks



Leader Grant: £72,839

Heritage Walks In North Northumberland

Countrywise Consultants wrote, designed and printed a new heritage walking book that covers 10 walks across north Northumberland.

The book helps visitors and locals enjoy the rich cultural and historic heritage of the area, and also encourages people to visit local businesses nearby.

Tourism, Culture, Environment

Applicant: Countrywise Consultants

 1 Micro business supported




Leader Grant: £2,797

Claire's Newsagents

Micro Enterprise

Applicant: Claire's Newsagents

 4 Micro businesses supported



The project enabled a newsagents in Haydon Bridge to expand into a neighbouring building and install a cash point in the store. This has allowed the local community to access a wider choice of products from a local business. The cash machine has proved invaluable as it has stopped some businesses losing money as they are able to direct customers to the cash machine rather than turning them away when minimum card payments are in place.

Leader Grant £3,028

Kirkharle Play Area

Micro Enterprise

Applicant: Kirkharle Creative

 5 Micro businesses supported



Kirkharle Creative is a community interest group made up of businesses based at Kirkharle Courtyard. Famous as the birthplace of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, the Creative wanted to expand Kirkharle's offer by appealing to families with young children, and has created a children's play area that draws upon the history of the site as part of its inspiration.

A range of environmentally appropriate play equipment has been installed, along with a sandpit that mimics the shape of the serpentine lake on site and interpretation boards and games.

Leader Grant: £6,721

Northern Wilds

NULAG supported the start up of Northern Wilds. The business has three complementary income streams: production and sale of bespoke timber furniture and craft products; hosting of workshops and events focused around wild food foraging and cooking; and craft activities such as working with green wood and fur. An ex military vehicle was converted into a movable workshop space and a website was built during the project.

Website: www.northernwilds.co.uk

Leader Grant: £5,077

Micro Enterprise

Applicant: Northern Wilds

📍 | Micro enterprise start up



Coquetdale Brewery

This project helped establish a microbrewery within Rothbury thus reintroducing an industry back to the village after an absence of over 100 years. This new business venture opens on the back of a nationally increasing trend towards the consumption of 'real ales' produced by microbreweries. The locally sourced prime ingredients in the real ales include water from the Simonside Hills and malted barley from Simpsons, the Northumberland-based maltsters.

Leader Grant: £5,000

Micro Enterprise

Applicant: Coquetdale Brewery Ltd

🏭 | Micro business supported

📍 | Micro enterprise start up





👤 | Job



Scarlett And The Spotty Dog

Micro Enterprise

Applicant: Scarlett and the Spotty Dog

-  I Micro business supported
-  I Micro enterprise start up
-  1.5 Jobs
-  I Community/business network



Scarlett and the Spotty Dog has launched as a bakery producing locally and ethically sourced specialist cakes and baked goods, offering something a little different to the market.

This project supported the start up of the bakery by installing a commercial kitchen from which to grow the business and also purchased a delivery van to take deliveries to local shops and farmers markets.




Blog: www.scarlettandthespottedog.blogspot.com

Leader Grant £10,285

Rocky Road

Micro Enterprise

Applicant: Rocky Road

-  I Micro business supported
-  I Micro enterprise start up
-  5 Jobs



Rocky Road Tearoom and Holiday Let redeveloped the empty Co-op building in Bellingham Market Square. The tearoom offers locals and tourists affordable freshly prepared and home cooked food, with the ingredients locally sourced wherever possible. It opens early for breakfast and you can even order a packed lunch to go!

Networking with other local business is important for the business model. During the off-peak season floor space is offered to local small businesses and community groups free of charge allowing them a platform to showcase their products and put on demonstrations such as cake decorating, flower arranging and book clubs.

Website: www.rockyroadcafe.co.uk

Leader Grant: £60,803

Umbrella Project


The Umbrella Project is an innovative way of adding value to LEADER in the Northumberland Uplands. The project assisted potential applicants to NULAG as they develop their own project ideas by funding study visits within the UK and across the EU. These visits allowed applicants to refine exactly what they wanted to do in the Northumberland Uplands before they completed full application forms. The funding was also available to previously approved LEADER projects if they identified opportunities to add value to what they were already doing.

Examples of visits supported include visits to Lincolnshire to research a firewood fair, a visit to Sweden to learn about care farming and a visit to Romania to research traditional hay meadow management.

Leader Grant: £8,702

Micro Enterprise

Applicant: Northumberland National Park Authority

 10 Micro businesses supported

 10 Community/business networks



Revitalisation And Regeneration Of Bellingham

Bellingham District Trade and Tourism Association, representing as many as 59 businesses in and around the remote market town of Bellingham has purchased a number of items of event equipment, including public display systems and market stalls in order to promote local trade and support enterprise activity. The association makes use of the equipment at public events throughout the year including Bellingham's monthly fresh produce and craft market.

Website: <http://bdtta.co.uk>

Micro Enterprise

Applicant: Bellingham District Trade and Tourism Association

 1 Micro business supported

 1 Community/business network




Leader Grant: £9,500

Equestrian Pilates

Micro Enterprise

Applicant: Equestrian Pilates

 | Micro business supported



Equestrian Pilates established a business based on a mobile equestrian Pilates studio. The studio was a fully carpeted, heated and covered-in horse trailer housing a Pilates reformer machine and Cadillac exerciser. The aim of the project was to bridge the gap between a warm studio and being outside on the horse. With the trailer the business was able to uniquely offer classes at equestrian centres across Northumberland.

After running with some limited success for a number of months the project adapted to increasing fuel costs and traded in the trailer for more static equipment. This change allowed the business to remain viable.

Website: www.equestrianpilates.co.uk

Leader Grant £8,984

Horse Power For Ability

Micro Enterprise

Applicant: Horse Power for Ability

 | Micro business supported

 | Micro enterprise start up

 | Job



This project saw the opening of a new horse power therapy centre to help people with mobility problems in Northumberland. The business introduced hippotherapy – a specialist physiotherapy intervention using the movement of horses – to the Northumberland Uplands.

This innovative new business purchased specialist equipment to help open Horse Power for Ability. The business provides opportunities for care provision in a controlled and unusual setting.

Website: www.horsepowerforability.com

Leader Grant: £8,389

Slate And Nature







Having been based in a garden shed for some years developing prototypes, Slate and Nature used this project to build a new bespoke workshop. This small-scale enterprise helps to meet a demand from tourists for locally produced craft products. Slate and Nature's business model is based on the use of reclaimed slate, in the design and manufacture of natural craft items.

Website: www.slateandnature.com

Leader Grant: £47,650

Micro Enterprise

Applicant: Slate and Nature

-  2 Micro businesses supported
-  1 Micro enterprise set up
-  1.7 Jobs
-  10 Training days
-  5 Community/business networks
-  50 Young people



Gilsland Railway Station Feasibility Study

Gilsland Railway Station closed in 1967, although much of the access infrastructure remains in place. Current public transport provision is poor and unreliable, despite the communities' proximity to the major tourism hotspot of Hadrian's Wall. Following a recent survey demonstrating support for the idea, the Tyne Valley Rail User's Group investigated the viability of re-establishing a railway station and platforms at Gilsland to combat the increasing sense of isolation in the village.

Website: www.tvrug.co.uk

Leader Grant: £4,600

Communities

Applicant: Tyne Valley Rail User's Group

-  1 Community/business network



Tillside Cricket Club Pavilion

Communities

Applicant: Tillside Cricket Club

😊 36 Young people



Tillside Cricket Club is based in Etal and has a strong membership including more than 100 junior members. The old pavilion was a converted chicken shed that had been outgrown by this thriving club. This project has provided a new, purpose built building for members that is also used for community activities.

Website: www.tillsidecc.org.uk

Leader Grant £24,188

Bellingham Show And Country Festival

Communities

Applicant: The North Tyne and Redesdale Agricultural Society

♻️ 2 Community/business networks



The North Tyne and Redesdale Agricultural Society has boldly faced recent years of declining attendance and cancellations by rebranding and re-launching the Bellingham Show and Country Festival. The show benefitted hugely from new activities, strong creative marketing and a much bigger audience. By having a more diverse offer, and a stronger focus on local culture and heritage, the Society has secured its sustainability for the future. Rachel Pearson, Show Secretary said, "I would like to say thank you for this funding...without your support this event would probably have folded and now it is in a position of strength to carry on for generations to come."

Leader Grant: £14,970

Humshaugh Community Shop






The villages of Humshaugh and Wall came together to protect their valuable village shop from closure. Facing the real prospect of the final shop in their community closing, local people formed a committee and purchased the lease and took on the day to day management of the shop. Local volunteers run the shop, stocking local produce. The shop is really important in terms of basic rural service provision so the community got on and did something about its impending closure. The shop has generated enough profit to start recycling funds back to the community through other projects. The new Village Hall commercial grade kitchen has benefited from this new source of community investment.

Website: www.humshaughshop.co.uk

Leader Grant: £22,500

Communities

Applicant: Humshaugh Community Ventures Ltd

-  2 Micro businesses supported
-  1 Micro enterprise start up
-  1 Job
-  5 Community/business networks
-  6 Young people



Ford And Etal Scout Bunkhouse



This joint project with the Northumberland Coast and Lowlands LAG has built a new outdoor activity centre at the Ford and Etal Scout Campsite. The new building has catering and bunkhouse facilities and is available to hire by scout troops and community groups from across the region. The project has been jointly supported because, although the site lies within the Northumberland Uplands catchment area, many of the beneficiaries will come from the adjoining Coast & Lowlands patch from places like Berwick upon Tweed, Alnwick, Amble, Pegswood and Felton.

Website: www.fordscoutcamp.co.uk

Leader Grant: £40,550

Communities

Applicant: North Northumberland District Scout Council

-  1 Micro business supported
-  2113 Young people



Opening Doors Community Project

Communities

Applicant: St Mary the Virgin Church,
Longframlington

 1 Job



The Opening Doors project has completed the capital development of a new community room and employed a part-time Community Coordinator to develop the use of the Community Room and identify and facilitate new projects and services as requested by the local community.

A part-time Youth Worker is also providing an outreach service to the children and young people of Longframlington and the surrounding area.

Now that these services are up and running and have established clear community need they are being run by the local community.

Leader Grant £26,328

Kielder Fuel Pumps

Communities

Applicant: Kielder Valley Services Ltd

 2 Micro businesses supported

 1 Micro enterprise start up

 1 Community/business network



Kielder Fuel Station is the first community-run, unmanned fuel station in a rural location in England. The fuel station enables local people to fill up in the village of Kielder rather than having to travel to Hawick in the Scottish Borders or making a 19 mile trip to Bellingham in the south. Profits are recycled into the local community.

Visitors to Kielder Water and Forest Park have also benefited as in the past tourists have been known to run out of fuel. This project initially tested the old fuel tanks when the community looked to take on the disused garage site.

Leader Grant: £23,628

Hartburn Church

The installation of ground source heating into St Andrews Church, Hartburn, gives the Grade I listed building a constantly warm environment on an economically sustainable basis. The church is the only community building available in the village and this project has enabled it to be used as a hub for the community. A range of activities are offered which were not previously available locally. These include cultural events, various clubs, playgroups and physical activities to improve the health especially of older residents. In this way the project seeks to enhance the social cohesion, cultural development and physical health of the community. It also helps to reduce social disadvantage by enabling the older and poorer sections of the community to access local services.

Leader Grant: £15,000

Communities

Applicant: Hartburn with Meldon PCC

 | Community/business network



Bardon Mill Village Hall

Believed to be the country's first 'earth-sheltered' village hall, this is an inspirational, exciting and ambitious building. This community led project provides a centre for activities, whilst also complementing the natural environment. The building opened in May 2013.

Website: www.bardonmill-villagehall.co.uk

Leader Grant: £15,000

Communities

Applicant: Bardon Mill Village Hall


 | Micro business supported



Gilsland Village Hall

Communities

Applicant: Gilsland Village Hall

 4 Micro businesses supported



Gilsland Village Hall committee has ensured their building is insulated in preparation for the introduction of renewable energy sources. One of the green insulation solutions was 'Thermafleece' sheep's wool insulation which is used between and over the rafters in the roof space. The Village Hall accommodates the post office, a small library, public IT facilities and a venue for a wide range of social, cultural, sporting and recreational activities. The building provides a critical focus for village life in an isolated part of rural Northumberland, twenty miles from both Carlisle and Hexham.

Website: www.gilsland.org.uk

Leader Grant £18,500

Bellingham Library

Communities

Applicant: Bellingham Town Hall

 1 Micro business supported

 1 Micro enterprise start up

 2 Jobs

 2 Community/business networks



Bellingham Town Hall Steering Group relocated Bellingham Library to the Town Hall. The ground floor was converted into the new community library and an Internet Café area. The Library has full disabled access and baby changing facilities.

This project is an example of a community taking action to save a service which would otherwise have been lost and building on this to enhance facilities by introducing new services into one multi-purpose building.

Website: www.bellinghamtownhall.org.uk

Leader Grant: £4,240

Northumbria Basketry Group Development

A group of creative and enterprising people in the Coquet Valley has succeeded in reviving an ancient craft of the countryside. Northumbria Basketry Group has run classes in willow weaving and basket making; cultivated a sustainable local supply of willow and purchased willow processing equipment to process the raw commodity.

New skills have been introduced to hundreds of new members as the group has flourished. The National Basketmakers' Association held its annual meeting in Rothbury as a result, bringing more than 60 people to stay in the local area.

A transnational project with Swedish crafters included a joint craft skills workshop in Sweden and a reciprocal visit to Northumberland.

Website: www.northumbriabasketrygroup.co.uk

Communities

Applicant: Northumbria Basketry Group

321 Training days

8 Community/business networks

104 Young people



Leader Grant: £17,100

Humshaugh Community Kitchen

Humshaugh Community Ventures Ltd is a driving force behind the village's revitalisation. This project was developed in partnership with the Village Hall Committee and has upgraded and refurbished the hall kitchen to a standard that meets current food hygiene regulations. Local people wishing to establish commercial food and drink operations hire the kitchen for the production of their goods. One outlet for these new products is the award winning community owned village shop.

This mutually beneficial project not only develops an additional revenue stream for the village hall, but also increases profits for the shop from the sale of local produce.

Website: www.humshaughshop.co.uk

Communities

Applicant: Humshaugh Village Hall

1 Micro business supported

1 Micro enterprise start up



Leader Grant: £17,340

Glendale Charities Cooperative

Communities

Applicant: Glendale Gateway Trust

- 🏠 I Micro enterprise start up
- 👥 I Community/business network



Glendale Gateway Trust took on the lease for an empty property on Wooler High Street. The Trust works with a wide range of local charitable groups and organisations that use the property to hold charity sales in order to raise income. This unique pop-up enterprise has been self-sustaining for the past four years with ongoing costs being covered from a small percentage of takings.

This innovative and enterprising use of a prime location on Wooler High Street encapsulates a real bottom-up community spirit.

Website: www.wooler.org.uk

Leader Grant £4,900

ADAPT - Extra Miles

Communities

Applicant: ADAPT

- 🏠 I Micro business supported
- 👥 2 Jobs
- 👥 50 Community/business networks



A new way of tackling community transport provision has been trialled by ADAPT. Minibuses that were being used for school runs were upgraded to allow new routes and services to be extended to rurally isolated communities around Bellingham and Haltwhistle. The two upgraded buses are fully accessible and are able to carry cycle tourists. Community groups and organisations can hire the buses and they also cover specific routes identified by local people. The project created two new jobs and supported remote communities that face challenges when it comes to accessing shops, healthcare and basic services.

Website: www.adapt-ne.org.uk

Leader Grant: £105,250

Tynedale Women's Training Group





This project provided training opportunities for women in five villages across the north Tyne region. Sessions covered practical skills, personal development and careers advice and were offered free of charge. A crèche service allowed young mothers to join other women of different ages, with different interests and from different social groups in isolated rural communities to develop an informal learning network.

Tynedale Women's Training Group aims to advance the education of women by providing access to learning and by bringing together organisations to improve the training and learning opportunities for women.

Leader Grant: £34,945

Communities

Applicant: Tynedale Women's Training Group

-  1 Micro business supported
-  106 Training days
-  4 Community/ business networks
-  16 Young people



River Till Resource Appraisal

This project tackled the pressing issue of land management in the context of a changing climate by producing a novel feasibility study. The focus of the study was a stretch of the River Till that ran through a number of farm businesses and communities. The study investigated the potential for winter water storage for farmers in the Till Valley, identified high risk flooding sites and suggested suitable mitigation measures, explored the feasibility of small scale hydro power generation and looked at the provision of emergency water supplies for fire fighting.

The management information gained from the study benefits businesses, communities and other agencies working across the River Till catchment.

Leader Grant: £3,000

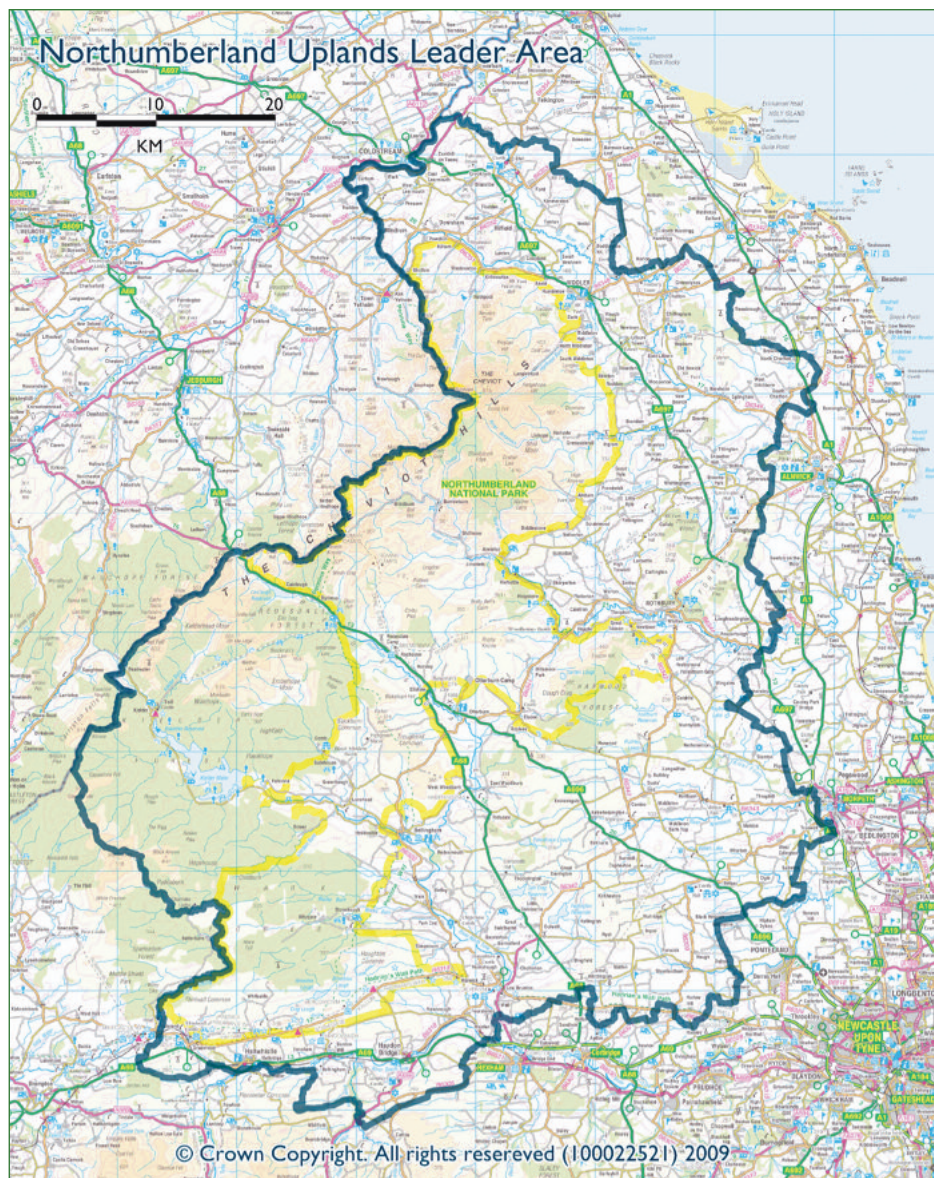
Communities

Applicant: Ford and Etal Estates

-  9 Community/business networks



The Northumberland Uplands Leader Area



The Northumberland Uplands Leader area covers 3,000 km² with a population of 32,600.

Project Analysis

Number of projects supported	77
Leader funding distributed to projects	£2,035,072
Matched funding invested	£2,324,675
Number of full time jobs created	40
Number of new micro enterprise start ups	22
Number of micro businesses supported	173
Young people benefiting from advice and training	1,210
Number of training days delivered	2,973

Other NULAG Opportunities

Study Tour Fund - NULAG established an innovative study tour fund giving opportunities to develop new ideas, share expertise with others in the UK and forge new, mutually beneficial partnerships across the entire EU.

Swedish Partnership - Encouraged by LEADER principles to link with other LAGs across the EU, NULAG has developed close working relationships with LEADER Linné in Southern Sweden. Together we have a joint youth project and links between forestry businesses, fishing enterprises and handicraft initiatives.

Young Northumberland - NULAG's youth initiative, Young Northumberland, works on the ground to develop projects that deliver enterprise support for young people in the Northumberland Uplands. One project, 'Young Northumberland: The Voice' gives young people from rural Northumberland the chance to express their views and opinions on key issues.

Contact:

For more information please visit our website: www.nuleader.eu



Northumberland Uplands Local Development Strategy 2014-20

A Local Development Strategy is critical to the LEADER approach. It describes the local identity of a LEADER area, the familiar traditions that exist and importantly the common needs and aspirations that the area shares. The Strategy also recognises local strengths and weaknesses, threats and opportunities and identifies priorities for a Local Action Group to pursue over a period of time.

The work to compile a Local Development Strategy includes clear consultation with local communities and business, ensuring the Strategy is appropriate for the area and based on real need and local potential.

In the first half of 2014 NULAG will compile a new Local Development Strategy that lays out development priorities for the Northumberland Uplands for the period up to 2020. This new Strategy then draws in funding from EU funding streams that can be used to support local projects, which deliver activity against the priorities within the Strategy.

Local communities and businesses can get involved in the preparation of the Local Development Strategy by responding to the consultation run by the NULAG. Parish Councils, community organisations and local businesses will be approached to contribute their views on how the Northumberland Uplands can continue to grow and develop in the future.

More information can be found at: www.nuleader.eu





www.nuleader.eu

Northumberland Uplands



Northumberland National Park Authority



The European Agricultural
Fund for Rural Development:
Europe investing in rural areas.



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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